

Message

From: Carroll, Timothy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7C1EF325560047F3A017036A7486B8F2-CARROLL, TI]
Sent: 2/28/2023 1:50:06 PM
To: Abdullah Khan [abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com]; Rhett Buttle [rhett@publicprivatestrategies.com]
Subject: RE: Forbes with your boss?

Hi Abdullah and Rhett, sharing a response to that question. Thanks again for the opportunity! Please let me know if there's anything else you need from us.

No community should have to go through an environmental crisis alone, and that's exactly what we've pledged to the people of East Palestine. EPA personnel arrived on scene within hours of the derailment, and we've been here ever since, testing air quality, including the indoor air quality of over 550 homes, and working alongside federal, state, and local partners with on-the-ground response efforts.

Last week, I issued an order that holds Norfolk Southern accountable for the mess they made and the trauma they inflicted on this community. Norfolk Southern will clean up contaminated soil and water and safely transport that contamination to the appropriate locations to ensure residents aren't impacted further. This work will be done to EPA specifications. Norfolk Southern will reimburse EPA for cleaning services that will be offered to residents and businesses to provide an additional layer of reassurance and peace of mind. And, Norfolk Southern will attend and participate in public meetings at EPA's request and share information with the public. Full transparency is the only option.

The order is among EPA's strongest authorities to hold a company accountable for jeopardizing people's health and safety and represents the transition from the state-led emergency response phase to the environmental cleanup phase.

EPA will be with the community of East Palestine every step of the way – we will not leave until the job is done and until they feel at home once again. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, we are committed to delivering justice for all communities facing environmental challenges, from East Palestine, Ohio, to Jackson, Mississippi to McDowell County, West Virginia, and we will continue this work to ensure all people have healthy lands to enjoy, clean air to breath, and safe water to drink.

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 7:18 PM
To: Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com>; Rhett Buttle <rhett@publicprivatestrategies.com>
Subject: Re: Forbes with your boss?

Great, thank you. Back to you ASAP!

From: Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 7:06:29 PM
To: Rhett Buttle <rhett@publicprivatestrategies.com>
Cc: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Forbes with your boss?

Hi Tim,

This is the question we're thinking of adding to the interview. If it's good with you, please provide your response ASAP:

The EPA has been at work handling the recent trainwreck in East Palestine, Ohio for the past couple weeks. What updates would you share about the response?

Thanks,
Abdullah

On Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 5:51 PM Rhett Buttle <rhett@publicprivatestrategies.com> wrote:

We can do that!

Rhett Buttle
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On Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 6:36 AM Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Abdullah, we'd welcome the opportunity to address the ongoing response to the train derailment in Ohio but would really like this to land during BHM (with apologies again for the delay on our end.)

If we can get you a response tomorrow morning by 9:30 AM, could this still publish tomorrow with that answer included?

From: Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com>

Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 4:26 PM

To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>

Cc: Rhett Buttle <rhett@publicprivatestrategies.com>

Subject: Re: Forbes with your boss?

Hi Tim,

I know we originally planned to have this piece close out Black History Month with some of the excellent content you provided us on environmental justice, and we are set to post tomorrow.

However, given what's going on in Ohio at the moment, we wanted to know if your office would potentially like for us to add a question and response about the situation, or would like us to hold the piece until a later date?

Let us know what you think,
Abdullah

On Thu, Feb 23, 2023 at 2:36 PM Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com> wrote:

Hi Tim,

Thanks so much, these look great, we will let you know next steps and our publication date soon.

Best,
Abdullah

On Thu, Feb 23, 2023 at 10:48 AM Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Abdullah and Rhett, I so appreciate your patience on this. I am sharing answers from Administrator Regan below. Please let me know if there's anything else you need from us!

We have just passed two years of the Biden-Harris Administration. What have you learned serving as EPA Administrator and what should we know about the work you've accomplished?

On day one in office, President Biden laid out a bold and ambitious agenda, and so much of our agency's work is central to supporting the administration's top priorities, like combatting the climate crisis and protecting public health and the environment.

EPA is the tip of the spear when it comes to advancing the Biden-Harris environmental priorities, and the Agency is moving further and faster than ever before. I am so proud of the work we've completed so far, finalizing strong, legally durable rules to phase down super-pollutant HFCs, establish the strongest ever light-duty vehicle emissions standards, and deliver the strongest-ever national clean air standards to cut pollution from heavy-duty trucks. The Agency has also proposed strong standards to cut methane from new and existing oil and natural gas operations and develop stronger national air quality standards for soot and cross-state air pollution. Importantly, we have advanced this robust agenda all while creating good-paying jobs, lowering costs, and revitalizing American manufacturing.

Of all we've been able to accomplish over the past two years, I think I am most proud of the robust community engagement we've done with every EPA rulemaking, policy decision or funding opportunity. I've personally had the opportunity to get out from behind my desk in Washington to hear directly from the American people, walking with farmers and ranchers in rural Kansas, sitting with residents on a front porch as they describe the impacts of pollution in their neighborhood, and meeting with private sector leaders who are leading the way towards a cleaner economy. We will only be successful when we meet people where they are, listen to and understand people's lived experiences, and ensure these perspectives are at the forefront of our decision-making.

February is Black History Month. What is the EPA doing to focus on environmental justice and equity for the Black community?

Too many communities—particularly Black communities, still grapple with the inequities that linger in our society. Overlapping injustices—from inadequate housing conditions to environmental degradation—have prevented so many Black people of reaching their highest potential. I'm proud to work for an administration that is deeply committed to righting these wrongs and advancing equity and racial justice for all.

Central to all of our work at EPA is the belief that all people deserve clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and the opportunity to lead a healthy life. We are working every single day to ensure that all communities—especially communities who have disproportionately borne the burden of pollution and environmental harm—are empowered to realize the full protections of our environmental laws.

I'm so proud that last fall, we memorialized our commitment to embedding equity and justice into the DNA of our agency and established EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights. The new office ensures that both environmental justice and external civil rights remain at the forefront of EPA's mission for years to come. The new office will dedicate more than 200 EPA staff in Washington, DC and across 10 regions towards solving environmental challenges in communities that have been underserved for far too long.

More broadly, what are your goals for the EPA in 2023?

Thanks to President Biden's ambitious environmental agenda and unprecedented legislative accomplishments, the Environmental Protection Agency has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest more than \$100 billion in the health, equity, and resilience of our communities and accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy.

With Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, we've already begun to invest in our Nation's water infrastructure, clean up pollution in communities across the country, and decarbonize our Nation's school bus fleet through new electric and low emission school buses and we're only getting started, with billions more to come in 2023. And with the Inflation Reduction Act, we will take the most aggressive action we ever have to confront the climate crisis, advance environmental justice and strengthen American prosperity and national security.

This historic investment in America complements our regulatory efforts as we move urgently and aggressively on standards that protect people and the planet. Later this year, we will be announcing proposals to address carbon emissions from new and existing power plants, strengthen standards for mobile sources of pollution, and more. As we take steps to fulfill our responsibility to protect public health, we also want to act in a way that amplifies the leadership and innovation in clean energy and decarbonization we're seeing from the private sector, state regulators, investors, and communities.

This is a pivotal moment for our planet, and EPA is ready to seize it.

How can business owners support the efforts to increase environmental justice in their own communities?

The business community, and especially our small businesses, are the proven incubators of innovative ideas and products that improve lives and protect the environment and they play a crucial role in EPA's efforts to tackle climate change, advance environmental justice, and restore the role of science in protecting public health and our environment.

We also know that communities know best when it comes to the solutions for their environmental challenges, and business owners have a significant role to play in the development and implementation of these solutions. At EPA, we're focused on working with the business community to understand how we can support these solutions with federal resources. With historic resources from the Inflation Reduction Act, including \$100 million in environmental justice grants available now, businesses and communities have an unprecedented opportunity to partner with EPA and deliver results. Building these strong partnerships with communities across the country will move us closer to realizing a more just and equitable future for all.

What are some opportunities for the private sector to engage with the EPA? What resources does the EPA have for business owners to utilize?

At the EPA, we've seen that collaboration is key to success in advancing decarbonization. Over the years EPA has worked with tens of thousands of organizations across nearly every sector of the economy to reduce emissions – six billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, to be exact. That's a total which exceeds all 2019 U.S. carbon dioxide emissions.

Our success to date proves that a united approach – bringing government, business, and market forces together – can help tackle the climate crisis while creating good-paying jobs, protecting people’s health, and supporting a growing economy.

We want to continue this work with the private sector to push the envelope on climate action and support cutting-edge technology that will help drive us toward a zero-emission future and make our nation more globally competitive. This isn’t just good for growing the clean energy economy, it will ensure EPA can deliver significant public health benefits, especially in overburdened and underserved communities.

Is there anything else that you would like to add?

From extreme heat to flooding to severe storms, we are seeing the worsening impacts of the climate crisis, and we are moving forward with the urgency the science demands. But we also have this awesome opportunity before us to transform our economy, create good-paying jobs, and bolster American manufacturing and innovation, all while protecting people and the planet. Thanks to the \$100 billion from President Biden’s historic legislative achievements in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, EPA stands ready to make historic investments in America and deliver long overdue environmental and economic benefits for families too often left behind.

From: Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 2:12 PM

To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>

Cc: Rhett Buttle <rhett@publicprivatestrategies.com>

Subject: Re: Forbes with your boss?

Hi Tim,

Hope you're doing well. I wanted to see if you had an update for when you can send over those responses to our team.

Best,

Abdullah

On Fri, Feb 10, 2023 at 11:05 AM Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Abdullah, so sorry for our delay here, appreciate your patience. I expect to have these back to you early afternoon Monday!

From: Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 9:38 AM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Cc: Rhett Buttle <rhett@publicprivatestrategies.com>
Subject: Re: Forbes with your boss?

Hi Tim,

Just checking in to see if your team had a chance to take a look at our questions and put together your responses for the Forbes column.

Thanks,

Abdullah

On Fri, Feb 3, 2023 at 9:48 AM Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com> wrote:

Hi Tim,

Hope you're doing well. I wanted to check in and see if you had an update on when your team would be able to send over responses to the interview questions?

Best,

Abdullah

On Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 4:02 PM Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com> wrote:

Hi Tim,

We've put together a draft list of questions below that we think would be good for the piece. If you have any edits or would like to add additional questions, let us know and we'd be happy to adjust. If you could give us an idea of when you think we'll be able to have responses, that would be greatly appreciated.

Questions:

We have just passed two years of the Biden-Harris Administration. What have you learned serving as EPA Administrator and what should we know about the work you've accomplished?

February is Black History Month. What is the EPA doing to focus on environmental justice and equity for the Black community?

More broadly, what are your goals for the EPA in 2023?

How can business owners support the efforts to increase environmental justice in their own communities?

What are some opportunities for the private sector to engage with the EPA? What resources does the EPA have for business owners to utilize?

Is there anything else that you would like to add?

Thanks for working with us on this,
Abdullah

On Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 4:40 PM Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com> wrote:

Hi Tim,

That works for us, we will send over the draft questions for you by the end of the week. If you could send us the responses sometime next week that would be great, so we can finalize the piece. Right now it looks like we're aiming for publication the last week of February to close out Black History Month.

Thanks,

Abdullah

On Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:16 AM Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov> wrote:

Let's do written if that's alright, I think that will be fastest. If you send questions over we can get to work!

What were you thinking on deadline?

Tim Carroll (he/him)

Press Secretary

Environmental Protection Agency

202-384-7510 (mobile)

Twitter: [@EPAPressOffice](https://twitter.com/EPAPressOffice)

From: Rhett Buttle <rhett@publicprivatestrategies.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:26 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Cc: Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com>
Subject: Re: Forbes with your boss?

Awesome - -we can do either -- which do you prefer?

Rhett Buttle

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On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 6:25 PM Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov> wrote:

Hey Abdullah and Rhett, sorry for the delay here. Was out sick for a few days and am finally catching up here. That framing sounds great in the lead up to Black History Month, and we're always eager to highlight EPA efforts around environmental justice and equity. Will note that just last week, we announced the availability of \$100 Million in environmental justice grant funding from the Inflation Reduction Act.

To confirm, are we thinking a written Q&A or a call with the Administrator?

Tim Carroll (he/him)

Press Secretary

Environmental Protection Agency

202-384-7510 (mobile)

Twitter: [@EPAPressOffice](https://twitter.com/EPAPressOffice)

From: Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 1:30 PM

To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>

Cc: Rhett Buttle <rhett@publicprivatestrategies.com>

Subject: Re: Forbes with your boss?

Hi Tim,

Just following up to see if you've had a chance to consider the request to have the Administrator do a Forbes piece for us later this month. Echoing what Rhett said about the timing being ideal leading into Black History Month and a good hook with racial justice work taking place at the EPA.

Here is an example of a similar format of a Q&A interview that we used with [Brian Deese](#) and [Isabella Casillas Guzman](#) if that helps.

Best,

Abdullah

On Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 1:12 PM Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com> wrote:

Hi Tim,

Happy New Year, and hope you're doing well. We have a spot for the last week of January that we would like to use for the Administrator. If this works on your end, we can go right ahead and get started.

Best,

Abdullah

On Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 7:51 PM Rhett Buttle <rhett@publicprivatestrategies.com> wrote:

That would be great. We can be flexible - anything you want to anchor it on?

Mid to late January work? If so, we can share a list of questions.

On Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 10:51 AM Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov> wrote:

Miss you too! Was hoping I'd run into you at the bill signing last week!

I think the Administrator would definitely be interested, especially if we could focus on we're working to incentivize long-term clean energy investments in new technology that will take us to net-zero. Happy to chat more about that if helpful!

What were you thinking as far as timeline?

Tim Carroll (he/him)

Press Secretary

Environmental Protection Agency

202-384-7510 (mobile)

Twitter: [@EPAPressOffice](https://twitter.com/EPAPressOffice)

From: Rhett Buttle <rhett@publicprivatestrategies.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 4:02 PM

To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>

Cc: Abdullah Khan <abdullah@publicprivatestrategies.com>

Subject: Forbes with your boss?

Hey sir -- miss you!

We've been doing these interviews with Senior Staff and cabinet folks. Any interest from the EPA side?

Example:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rhettbuttle/2022/07/24/a-conversation-with-the-presidents-chief-economic-advisor-on-the-future-of-american-competitiveness-innovation-and-how-passing-the-bipartisan-innovation-act-is-part-of-the-solution/?sh=11d6c7303b33>

It's fairly easy, we can do most of it over email!

Rhett Buttle

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